CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub 48—7

1   1.   A method of using a telephone identifying information to preserve state for

2   applications over a telephone interface using a first computer, the method comprising:

3   identifying a user profile using the first computer and the telephone identifying

4   information;

5   selecting a state associated with the user profile using the first computer, the state

6   comprising a plurality of cookies; and

7   automatically providing a subset of the plurality of cookies to the application using the

8   first computer, the providing responsive to receiving a request over the telephone

9   interface to initiate an application.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically providing comprises initiating the

2   application on the first computer by retrieving the application using a HTTP request from a

3   server and including in the HTTP request at least one "Cookie:" header corresponding to at

4   least one cookie in the subset of the plurality of cookies.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the application has a corresponding uniform resource

2   indicator (URI) and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies is selected according to

3   applicability of each cookie in the plurality of cookies to the URI.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the applicability of a cookie for inclusion in the

2   subset is determined according to IETF RFC 2109.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein the applicability of a cookie for inclusion in the

2 subset is determined according to policies in a state management standard.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a new cookie in the plurality of

2 cookies, the new cookie received from the application as part of a hypertext transfer protocol

3 (HTTP) request for a uniform resource indicator (URI).

1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the storing occurs responsive to verification of the

2 new cookie by the first computer according to IETF RFC 2109.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the storing occurs responsive to verification of the

2 new cookie by the first computer according to policies in a state management standard.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises verifying a password

2 for the user profile received over the telephone interface prior to the selecting.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying comprises creating a user profile on

2 the first computer.

1 11. An apparatus for preserving state for applications over a telephone interface, the

2 apparatus comprising:

3 means for receiving a telephone identifying information over the telephone interface;

4 means for identifying a user profile according to the telephone identifying

5 information;

6 means for selecting a state associated with the user profile, the state comprising a

7 plurality of cookies; and

8   means for automatically providing a subset of the plurality of cookies to an

9   application, the providing responsive to receiving a request over the telephone

10   interface to initiate an application.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the apparatus supports a second application, the

2   application provided by a first legal entity and the second application provided by a second

3   legal entity.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the plurality of cookies includes at least a first

2   cookie set by the second application, and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies does

3   not include the at least a first cookie.

1   14.   A computer system to preserve state for applications over a telephone interface, the

2   computer system comprising:

3   an Internet interface including at least one program to access a second computer

4   system using one or more of a SSL protocol, a HTTP, and a HTTPS, the second

5   computer system including an application;

6   a telephone interface to send and receive audio signals to and from the telephone and

7   to receive a telephone identifying information corresponding to the telephone; and

8   a control subsystem to control the Internet interface and the telephone interface, the

9   control subsystem including at least one program for

10   identifying a user profile according to the telephone identifying information, the

11   user profile having a corresponding state, the state comprising a plurality of

12   cookies, and

13   automatically providing a subset of the plurality of cookies over the Internet

14   interface when retrieving the application.

1 15. A computer program for preserving state for applications over a telephone interface,

2 the computer program comprising:

3 a first set of instructions for receiving a telephone identifying information from the

4 telephone interface;

5 a second set of instructions for identifying a user profile according to the telephone

6 identifying information;

7 a third set of instructions for selecting a state associated with the user profile, the state

8 comprising a plurality of cookies; and

9 a fourth set of instructions for automatically providing a subset of the plurality of

10 cookies to an application, the providing responsive to receiving a request over the

11 telephone interface to initiate an application.

1 16. The computer program of claim 15, wherein the providing comprises including the

2 subset of the plurality of cookies as part of an HTTP request to retrieve the application from a

3 computer system.

1 17. The computer program of claim 16, wherein each cookie in the plurality of cookies

2 associated with a corresponding domain, wherein the HTTP request include an HTTP request

3 host and wherein the subset of the plurality of cookies comprises each cookie in the plurality

4 of cookies with a corresponding domain similar to the HTTP request host.

1 18. The computer program of claim 15, wherein the second set of instruction further

2 comprises a set of instructions for creating a new user profile responsive to receiving

3 telephone identifying information not associated with an existing user profile.

1 19. The computer program of claim 15, wherein the second set of instruction further

2 comprises a set of instructions for creating a temporary user profile responsive to receiving

3   telephone identifying information not associated with an existing user profile and wherein the

4   computer program further comprises a fifth set of instructions for deleting the temporary user

5   profile upon receiving a signal from the telephone interface signaling an end of a telephone

6   call.